IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

LUSTRESS CRAVEN : 527 Randolph Street :

Camden, NJ 08105

Plaintiff :

v. :

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
NORTH AMERICA,

1601 Chestnut Street
2 Liberty Place

Philadelphia, PA 19192

Defendant : NO.:

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES, the Plaintiff, Lustress Craven, by and through his Counsel, Pond, Lehocky, Stern & Giordano, P.C., and hereby complains of the above referenced Defendant, Life Insurance Company of North America, (hereinafter referred to as "LINA"), as follows:

I. STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION:

1. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Honorable Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 1332(e). This Honorable Court has jurisdiction over all issues raising a federal question and this instant matter involves a disability policy issued to the Claimant through his Employer, thus it is governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) 29 U.S.C. § 1011, et seq.

2. All acts and occurrences material to the instant causes of action occurred within the jurisdictional boundaries of this Honorable Court.

II. FACTS:

- 3. The Plaintiff, Lustress Craven, is an adult and competent individual with a physical address of 527 Randolph Street, Camden, NJ 08105.
- 4. The Defendant, LINA, under information and belief, is a business entity with a principal place of business located at 1601 Chestnut Street, 2 Liberty Place, Philadelphia, PA.
- 5. LINA is a business entity, which issues disability insurance policies which are governed by the Employee Retirement Insurance Security Act (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. §1011, et seq.
- 6. On a date certain, LINA, issued a policy providing disability insurance benefits under policy number LK-0980051 to the Plaintiff through the Plaintiff's employer, International Paper Company.
- 7. The policy of insurance aforementioned provided for an employee benefit plan as defined and covered under the terms of ERISA.
- 8. At all times material and relevant hereto, all policy premiums due on behalf of the Plaintiff under said policy were paid.
- 9. At all times material and relevant hereto, the Plaintiff performed all obligations required of him under said contract of insurance.

- 10. At all times material and relevant hereto, the Plaintiff was a qualified participant in the employee benefit plan provided by LINA to the Plaintiff's employer through policy number LK-0980051.
- 11. On a date certain, the Plaintiff filed an application for Long term disability benefits with LINA. He received benefits under said policy
- 12. By correspondence, LINA notified the Plaintiff that his claim was denied and that he was not entitled to benefits beyond February 6, 2018 as the definition of disability changed to whether the Plaintiff could perform any occupation.
- 13. The Plaintiff filed an administrative appeal and submitted additional medical records and opinions of his treating physicians in support of his claim.
- 14. By correspondence dated June 11, 2019, LINA denied the Plaintiff's administrative appeal and informed him of his right to bring a civil action disputing the adverse benefit decision.
- 15. LINA acted arbitrarily, capriciously and in a manner serving only its own business interest when it denied the Plaintiff's claim for disability benefits.
- 16. The actions of LINA in denying the Plaintiff's claim for disability insurance benefits was arbitrary, capricious and was not made in good faith and made in violation of 29 U.S.C. §1001, et seq.
 - 17. The actions of LINA in denying the Plaintiff's claim for disability

insurance benefits are contrary to the language of the policy in question.

- 18. The Plaintiff is entitled to disability insurance benefits under the aforementioned policy as he has satisfied through medical evidence that she meets the definition of disability under the policy of insurance.
- 19. The Plaintiff is entitled to recover the benefits due to him under the aforementioned insurance policy in accordance with 29 U.S.C. §1132.
- 20. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of LINA as herein above more particularly described, the Plaintiff has been caused to incur attorneys' fees in an amount not yet known.
- 21. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of LINA, the Plaintiff has sustained damages in an amount not yet known to the Plaintiff; however, upon information and belief, such damages will approximate the amount of benefits due and owing to the Plaintiff from February 6, 2018 to the present and continuing into the future.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Lustress Craven, respectfully requests that judgment be entered against LINA as follows:

- 1. Ordering LINA to pay to the Plaintiff, Lustress Craven, Long term disability insurance benefits from February 6, 2018 to the present and continuing into the future as provided for in the policy of insurance;
- 2. Awarding the Plaintiff, Lustress Craven, prejudgment interest on the

award until the date of judgment;

- 3. Awarding the Plaintiff's attorney's fees, court costs and other reasonable costs incurred for the prosecution of the instant action;
- 4. Granting such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BY:

Michael J. Parker, Esquire PA Bar ID No.: 93024

Pond, Lehocky, Stern & Giordano, P.C. One Commerce Square 2005 Market Street 18th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215)568-7500

Mparker@disabilityjustice.com

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JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

L. (a) PLAINTIFFS Lustress Craven 527 Randolph Street Camden, NJ 08105				DEFENDAN Life Insurance (1601 Chestnut Philadelphia, PA	Street,	2 Libe	North America erty Place			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Camden				County of Reside			ted Defendant	Philadelphia	а	
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Michael J. Parker, Esqu 2005 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19103	Address, and Telephone Numb ite	ber)		Attorneys (If Know	wn)					
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)	III. CI	FIZENSHIP OF	PRIN	CIPA	I. PARTIES	/Dlan #1/#	0 0	
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☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizens)	hip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	n of Another State	₫ 2	□ 2	Incorporated and I of Business In A	Principal Place	D 5	(3) 5
				n or Subject of a eign Country	□ 3	D 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	□ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	Γ (Place an "X" in One Box (Inly)				Click	here for: Nature of	of Suit Code Do	escription	ıs.
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☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability	☐ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability ☐ 367 Health Care/	□ 690	of Property 21 USC 88		23 With	al 28 USC 158 drawal SC 157	☐ 375 False CI ☐ 376 Qui Tan 3729(a)	n (31 USC	
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 ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract 	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	371 Truth in Lending380 Other Personal	- 1	Act Labor/Management	□ 86	2 Black	Lung (923)	☐ 850 Securitie	es/Commod	dities/
 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise 	☐ 360 Other Personal	Property Damage		Relations	□ 86	4 SSID	C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI	Exchang B 890 Other St	ge stutory Ac	tions
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245 Tort Product Liability	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence 530 General				26 US	SC 7609	Agency I	Decision	
290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	☐ 535 Death Penalty		IMMIGRATION	200 C			☐ 950 Constitut State Stat		
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V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in	Ona Roy Only)	Confinement								
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	N Brief description of ca	tute under which you are use:			tatutes un				Direct File)
VII. REQUESTED IN	THIS IS AN APPE	AL OF A DENIAL C	OF LONG	TERM DISABIL	ITY BE	NEF	TS UNDER E	RISA		
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 23	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	DEM	MAND \$			IECK YES only in RY DEMAND:			t:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY,	(See instructions):	JUDGE /		n 1	DC			☐ Yes	X No	
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OR OFFICE USE ONLY		CUMA	K.	100	L					
RECEIPT# AMO	DUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE			MAG. JUDO	ìΕ		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" Π, in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked. Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity
- Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this III. section for each principal party.
- Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code W. that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for eases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C.
 - Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to
- Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional VI. statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

Case 2:19-cv-03740-Numbed Species Distric Filed (19/19) Page 8 of 10 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff:	527 RANDOLPH STREET, CAMDEN, NJ 08105						
Address of Defendant:							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transacti	ion:2005 MARKET STREET PH						
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:							
Case Number: N/A	Judge: N/A	Date Terminated:					
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is a	answered to any of the following questions:						
Is this case related to property included previously terminated action in this cou	in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year art?	Yes No V					
Does this case involve the same issue of pending or within one year previously to	of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit correction are a prior suit correction.	Yes No V					
Does this case involve the validity or in numbered case pending or within one year.	fringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier ear previously terminated action of this court?	Yes No 🗸					
case filed by the same individual?	as corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights	Yes No 🗸					
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within ca this court except as noted above.	ase is / Is not related to any case now pending or	within one year previously terminated action in					
DATE: 08/13/2019	//www/////	93024					
	Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)					
		TV TP TV					
CIVIL: (Place a √in one category only)							
CIVIL: (Place a √in one category only) A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction						
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases	B. Diversity Jurisdiction enter, and All Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contracts 2. Airplane Person 3. Assault, Defam 4. Marine Person 5. Motor Vehicle 1	Cases: ract and Other Contracts nal Injury ation al Injury Personal Injury Injury (Please specify): ity Asbestos sity Cases					
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Case 2:19-cv-03740-Numbed Specimonstric Filodia Page 9 of 10 for the eastern district of Pennsylvania

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff:	527 RANDOLPH STREET, CAMDEN, NJ 08105						
Address of Defendant:							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 2005 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103							
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:			······································				
Case Number: N/A	Judge;	N/A	Date Terminated: _				
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is a	answered to any of the following	g questions:					
Is this case related to property included previously terminated action in this cou	in an earlier numbered suit penrt?	ding or within one year	Yes	No			
Does this case involve the same issue o pending or within one year previously to	f fact or grow out of the same to erminated action in this court?	ansaction as a prior suit	Yes	No 🗸			
Does this case involve the validity or in numbered case pending or within one year.	fringement of a patent already i ear previously terminated action	n suit or any earlier n of this court?	Yes	No 🗸			
Is this case a second or successive habea case filed by the same individual?			Yes	No 🗸			
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within ca this court except as noted above.	se 🔲 is / 🖸 k not related	to any case pow pending or v	vithin one year previo	usly terminated action in			
DATE: 08/13/2019	Muni		9	3024			
	Attorney-at-La	w / Pro Se Plaintiff		I.D. # (if applicable)			
CIVIL: (Place a √in one category only)							
A. Federal Question Cases:		B. Diversity Jurisdiction C	ases:				
 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contra 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 	et, and All Other Contracts	2. Airplane Persona	net and Other Contract al Injury	s			
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6. Labor-Management Relations		5. Motor Vehicle Personal In6. Other Personal In	ijury (Please specify):				
8. Habeas Corpus		7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability	y y – Asbestos				
9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases		9. All other Diversi (Please specify):	ty Cases				
11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify):	ERISA						
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I, MICHAEL J. PARKER	, counsel of record or pro se p						
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Relief other than monetary damages		/					
DATE: 08/13/2019	- Mull	////		3024			
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if		/ Pro Se Plainsiff L.C.P. 38.	Attorney I.	D. # (if applicable)			

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

LUSTRESS CRAVEN		:		
	Plaintiff	:		
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LIFE INSURANCE COI NORTH AMERICA,	MPANY	:		
]	Defendant	: NO.:	·	
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SELECT ONE OF THE	FOLLOWING (CASE MANAGEM	ENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus – Case	es brought under 2	8 U.S.C. §2241 thro	ugh §2255	()
(b) Social Security – Case and Human Services (es requesting revie denying plaintiff S	w of a decision of th ocial Security Benef	e Secretary of Health its.	()
(c) Arbitration - Cases re	equired to be desig	nated for arbitration	under Local Civil Rule 53.2	()
(d) Asbestos—Cases involence exposure to asbestos.	ving claims for pe	rsonal injury or prop	perty damage from	
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(e) Special Management commonly referred to the court. (See rever management cases.)	o as complex and t	hat need special or is	ntence management by	
management cases.)				()
(f) Standard Manageme	nt – Cases that do	not fall into any one	of the other tracks.	(X)
8/12/10	Mun	UM.		
Data	Michael J		Lustress Craven	
Date	Atto	orney-at-law	Attorney For Plaintiff	
215-568-7500	215-586	-3174	<u>Mparker@disabilityjust</u>	100 00=
Telephone	FAX numb		E-Mail Address	<u>100.00111</u>